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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, January 3, 1996)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Lord of our lives and Sovereign of our beloved Nation, we humbly confess our need for Your supernatural power. Thank You that You do not tailor our opportunities to our abilities, but rather give us wisdom, strength, and vision to match life's challenges. We surrender the pride of thinking that we can make it on our own resources. We are totally dependent on You. We could not think a thought, give dynamic leadership, or speak persuasively without Your constant and consistent blessing. You are the source of all we have and are. We praise You for the talents, education, and experience You have given us, but we know that You alone can provide the insight, innovation, and inspiration we need so urgently to meet the problems we face. You have told us there is no limit to what You will do to empower leaders who trust You completely, and give You the glory. We commit this day to glorify You in all that we say and do. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE- MENT—HOUSE JOINT RESOLU- TION 153

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, first I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives from the House, House

Joint Resolution 153, a funding resolution for the District of Columbia until January 25, 1996, that the joint resolution be deemed read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. I think it is clear that the effect of this will be to continue the District of Columbia government until January 25 at which time we hope we will have an agreement, or we will have some permanent resolution of appropriations bills and the D.C. appropriations bill. There is only one outstanding difference on that appropriations bill. It relates to vouchers. So, if that could be resolved, we could pass the District of Columbia bill.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, leaders' time has been reserved. There will be a period of morning business until 12 noon.

We are not expecting any rollcall votes to occur during today's session. I am not certain whether or not anything may come from the House. There is that possibility. But something may come from the House.

So I hope that maybe after Members have had any discussion they want, we might stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the President pro tempore.

FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I applaud the action taken this morning. I believe that providing the District of Columbia with the confidence of knowing that they will have the appropriate operating funds to continue at least through the 25th of January is very important. I talked to the Mayor this morning, and he urged that this be done. I am pleased that, again on a bipartisan basis, the Senate has agreed to take at least one of the many outstanding problems out of the mix and deal with it directly.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, while I agree that it is right to deal with the problems facing the District of Columbia, there should be no misunderstanding about the current situation. There are hundreds and hundreds of problems that are being created almost on a daily basis that have not been dealt with. Veterans are again in the same position they were prior to Christmas. If something is not done prior to the end of this month, veterans will not receive their disability checks.

If something is not done before the end of this month, AFDC recipients will not have their checks.

If something is not done before the end of this month, 260,000 Federal workers will have been out of work for an entire month. And the taxpayers are paying \$40 million a day for this to occur.

How ironic can it be? The irony certainly must be apparent to every one of the people involved. How ironic that at the very time we are dealing with the budget, trying to find some resolution to the deficit, we are creating through this irresponsible Government shutdown a \$40 million deficit unnecessarily each and every day. It is just outrageous.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The Senate has, through leadership of the majority leader and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, come to terms with this. We passed the continuing resolution. That issue is over and done with.

What remains is for the House to act responsibly to do what they should have done weeks ago—to pass a continuing resolution, put people back to work, and make absolutely certain that this horrendous situation we face today is solved once and for all.

If we do not, there will continue to be dire consequences. Everyone should know that Meals on Wheels runs out of money this week. Senior citizens who may only receive one meal a day will cease receiving those meals as a result of the inaction in the House. Senior citizens will go hungry. No one ought to be confused about it. Everyone ought to understand the implications of what we are doing here. Seniors who may not get any other nutritional opportunities for the entire day will be denied this one meal as a result of House Republican intransigence.

Medicare contractors are no longer being paid. Medicare contractors are now being asked to go out and provide medical services without any compensation at all.

So are we affecting the lives and health of millions of Americans beyond Federal workers? Absolutely. We are doing it today.

I already mentioned veterans not receiving their disability benefits. They are not receiving educational benefits either.

Unemployment offices—we have people out of work, walking in for unemployment compensation, not knowing how they are going to pay their bills. Their situation is totally unrelated to any budget negotiations. They are walking into unemployment offices and finding that no one can provide them with service because 10 States have already been forced to shut down their unemployment offices. Ten States have shut down every single unemployment office.

So people seeking help—not Federal employees, not people who may be part of the Federal Government but people who are out of work—are now being told there is nothing that we can do for them either.

Superfund has been halted now for cleanups in 32 toxic wastesites. There are 32 sites around the country completely shut down as a result of what has happened here in the Congress, and what is happening—or not happening—on the House side.

There are 20,000 student loans per day that are not being processed.

I had a call a couple of days ago from a friend in South Dakota whose daughter is depressed and in tears wondering just what is going to happen because she was told she cannot even go back to college because her student loan did not come through for the second semester. What happens to the next 6 months of her life?

Mr. President, there has been a lot of talk about furloughing Federal workers without pay. But it appears that the House may furlough themselves with pay. How outrageous can that be? What a contrast. What an incredible juxtaposition of fairness. The House is going out on a 2-week vacation with pay.

Every Federal worker is left at home without pay and the Federal taxpayer is left holding the bag each and every day for services not rendered.

This country has been in very difficult positions in the past. But I dare say, Mr. President, that this is the most inexplicable, outrageous situation that I have seen since coming to the Senate. It has to end. The House has to come to grips with taking the responsibility and doing the right thing. It has to happen, and it better happen today.

I yield the floor.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STEVENS). For the information of the Senate, under the previous order, House Joint Resolution 153, which was just received from the House, has been deemed read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider has been laid upon the table.

So the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 153) was deemed read a third time and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes.

COMMEMORATION OF UTAH'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 100 years ago today, Utah became the 45th State of the Union. I wish to join with Utahns everywhere and celebrate this momentous day, as I am sure my colleagues would as well, and I extend my best wishes for the next century.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 100 years ago today, January 4, 1896, President Grover Cleveland signed a proclamation admitting Utah as the 45th State of the Union. I rise in recognition of this event and to join with Utahns everywhere to celebrate the centennial of the State of Utah.

Prior to President Cleveland's action, Utahns had diligently battled for more than half a century to attain this goal. The telegram announcing Utah's statehood arrived at 9:13 a.m. on that winter morning in January at the Western Union office located on Main Street in Salt Lake City. As gunshots rang out

the news, hundreds of people began shouting with joy, "Statehood has been proclaimed." Bells and whistles reverberated throughout the valley, and one-by-one, 100 American flags were hoisted.

President Cleveland actually signed the proclamation at 10:03 a.m. in Washington, DC. His private secretary, Mr. Thurber, was quoted in the Salt Lake Tribune as saying,

The President looked upon the signing of the proclamation as purely as Executive act, and one not, therefore, to be witnessed by the public any more than the affixing of his signature to other routine business which came before him.

Let me emphatically state 100 years later than President Cleveland's act was not just routine business—this was the birth of a truly remarkable State.

Utah is great because its people make it so. Utahns, regardless of religious affiliation, hold solid values in common that I believe are essential to the quality of life anywhere. These include a strong work ethic, honesty, charity, compassion, thrift, perseverance, and respect for the family. There is a positive can do attitude in our State that is irresistible and refreshing.

As our State motto indicates, Utah is industrious. As we excel in the arts and humanities, we also excel in the sciences and in commerce. This success has brought us an enviable level of prosperity compared to other States, and sets the stage for a stable future for our children.

Utah's natural beauty is unsurpassed. The State of Utah has as a lasting and historical landmark, the Great Salt Lake; the greatest snow on Earth; and everything to offer in pure natural beauty. We are surrounded by the majesty of our mountains and forests; the breathtaking beauty of our red rock canyons; and the wide, open, limitless expanse of our farmlands and deserts.

People have come to Utah from every part of the world with one basic motivation—the belief that this is the place where they would find the opportunity to pursue their hopes and dreams. Utah's history is filled with tales of people who have displayed remarkable determination and the will to forge ahead regardless of the odds. Our history and our people have literally made a desert blossom. Utah leaves an indelible impression upon its citizens, its visitors, and its leaders. The Utah values and the people who believe in them are the reasons Utah is a wonderful place to live, work, and most importantly raise our families.

Mr. President, most of my colleagues have had the opportunity to visit Utah and experience the spirit that makes our State what it is today. As many have told me, they can fully understand why I am so proud to represent Utah in this body. I choose to bring this highly important date to the attention of the Senate in the hope that my colleagues will join with me in congratulating all Utahns for a job well done.